

USA Boccia
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
Paralympics Tokyo 2020
Boccia
November 13, 2019

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

- 1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of nomination.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American or Parapan American Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) or National Paralympic Committee (NPC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the Olympic Charter (Rule 41), the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1), or the Panam Sports Constitution (Article 30.5-6).

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) and/or Continental Federation (CF) standards for participation (if any):

- To be eligible to compete in an BISFed event athletes must be 15 years of age before January 1st of the year in which they will be competing;
- Be registered with BISFed and on the BISFed Individual World Ranking List closing 30 April 2020;
- Be classifiable in accordance with the BISFed International Classification System; and
- Be internationally classified with a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after 31 December 2020.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Athletes must have successfully completed all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.
- Athletes age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USOPC Background Check Policy.

- Athletes age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to complete the U.S. Center for Safesport's online training.
- Must be a member in good standing with USA Boccia.

1.2. Tryout Events:

- 1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

See Section 2.2

- 1.2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1. (if any).

See Section 2.2

- 1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process (include maximum Team size).

A Team or Pairs qualification slot is allocated to the NPC not to the individual athlete or team. An Individual qualification slot is allocated to the individual athlete not to the NPC. There will be a total of 116 athletes qualifying in Boccia for the 2020 Paralympic Games. The maximum team entries in Team or Pairs is 10 teams in the BC1-2 Team, BC3 Pairs and BC4 Pairs events. In individual events there will be a maximum of 24 athletes in the BC2, BC3 and BC4 classes except the BC1 class where the maximum will be 20. An NPC may qualify a max of 10 athletes to compete at the 2020 Paralympic Games.

Team Qualification:

An NPC can be allocated no more than one (1) team/pair qualification slot for each of the BC1/BC2 Team, the BC3 Pairs and the BC4 Pairs medal events. Maximum entries in the Team or Pairs events is 10 athletes in which an NPC can:

- Enter one (1) BC1/BC2 Team consisting of four (4) athletes of which a minimum of one (1) must be in the BC1 sport class
- Enter one (1) BC3 Pair consisting of three (3) athletes.
- Enter one (1) BC4 Pair consisting of three (3) athletes.
- The number of female athletes representing an NPC must be one (1) female athlete per NPC for each Team/Pair event entered.

Team/ Pair	BC1-2 TEAM	PAIR BC3	PAIR BC4
Entries	10	10	10
	40 [4 per NPC incl. 1 female]	30 [3 per NPC incl. 1 female]	30 [3 per NPC incl. 1 female]
Host Qualification	1 slot [subject to ranking]	1 slot [subject to ranking]	1 slot [subject to ranking]
Automatic Qualification	3 slots 1 st at each 2019 Regional Championships	3 slots 1 st at each 2019 Regional Championships	3 slots 1 st at each 2019 Regional Championships

Ranking Qualification	6 slots highest ranked nations on the world ranking list	6 slots highest ranked nations on world ranking list	6 slots highest ranked nations on the world ranking list
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Individual Qualification:

An NPC can enter a maximum of three (3) athletes in each of the Individual medal events. An NPC qualifying athletes solely for Individual competition may be allocated a maximum of two (2) individual qualification slots per Individual medal event.

The number of female athletes representing an NPC must be one (1) female athlete per NPC for each Team/Pair event entered.

Individual	BC1	BC2	BC3	BC4
Entries:	20	24	24	24
Automatic Qualification (Result)	3 slots 1 st at each 2019 Regional Championships	3 slots 1 st at each 2019 Regional Championships	3 slots 1 st at each 2019 Regional Championships	3 slots 1 st at each 2019 Regional Championships
Individual Ranking (without Team/ Pair)	3 slots highest ranked individuals from NPC not qualified for Team	3 slots highest ranked individuals from NPC not qualified for Team	3 slots highest ranked individuals from NPC not qualified for Pair	3 slots highest ranked individuals from NPC not qualified for Pair
Individual Ranking (with Team/ Pair)	3 slots highest ranked individuals from NPC qualified for Team	7 slots highest ranked individuals from NPC qualified for Team	7 slots highest ranked individuals from NPC qualified for Pair	7 slots highest ranked individuals from NPC qualified for Pair
Individual Ranking (Female)	1 slot highest ranked female not qualified for Team	1 slot highest ranked female not qualified for Team	1 slot highest ranked female not qualified for Pair	1 slot highest ranked female not qualified for Pair
Automatic Qualification (Team/ Pair)	10 slots 1 per NPC from qualified Team	10 slots 1 per NPC from qualified Team	10 slots 1 per NPC from qualified Pair	10 slots 1 per NPC from qualified Pair

Qualification process for the competition with Team/Pair and Individual slots awarded based upon:

- (a) finishing position in Regional Championships
- (b) world ranking position
 - 1. highest ranked teams/pairs
 - 2. highest ranked individuals without a qualified team/pair
 - 3. highest ranked individuals
 - 4. highest ranked female individuals without a qualified team/pair
- (c) one individual slot per individual class for each qualified team/pair

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

The sport of Boccia is not a measured or timed event. It is the belief of USA Boccia that the selection criteria set out in Section 2.2, will result in the selection of athletes to comprise the most competitive Team and/or Pair(s)

Discretion will be used if slots become available under the following circumstances:

- A Teams and Pairs Qualification slot is awarded to the USA from the 2019 Regional Championships;
- Additional Team/Pair slots are earned from the IF reallocation system;
- A replacement athlete is needed per Section 4;
- An athlete declines the invitation to be on the 2020 Paralympic Team.

2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

The following factors, in order, will be taken into consideration. The athletes will be evaluated by the three (3) members of selection committee with the Executive Director/High Performance manager as the final approval (see Section 2.3).

1. USA Boccia Individual National and the BISFed International Individual Ranking Lists as of January 1, 2020;
2. BISFed International Competition performance from previous 2 years
3. National Boccia Championship results from previous 2 years;
4. Per BISFed competition qualification guide one (1) female athlete per NPC for each Team/Pair event is required
5. Historical knowledge and past performances of the player;
6. Team cohesiveness both on and off the court;
7. The athlete's capacity to sustain performance throughout competition;
8. Experience and skill;
9. An emerging athlete's potential for increasing the team's capacity for being medal capable in a relatively short period of time.
10. Communication, leadership skills and maturity;
11. All attempts will be made in BC1/BC2 Team Division to balance the team with minimally two BC1s to provide for athlete absence on court.

Sport Assistant Selection: The Discretionary Selection Committee will nominate sport assistants for BC1 and BC3 athletes to the team through discretionary selection. The sport assistants are not included in the maximum team size as determined by the qualification slots allocated by the IPC nor are the sport assistants accounted in the total of discretionary selection as outlined above. A sport assistant will typically work with one athlete during practice, competition and day-to-day activities; therefore, accreditation allocation is typically provided for one sport assistant per qualified athlete as outlined in the IPC Rules.

The following factors will be considered in the selection of a sport assistant:

- Preference of the qualified athlete
- Demonstrated expertise of the sport assistant—must have expertise and experience in the sport of boccia
- Knowledge and understanding of the BISFed Rules pertaining to boccia.
- Approval of USA Boccia Head Coach

Sport assistants will be held to the standards and code of conduct outlined in these Procedures. The sport assistant position is contingent on the nomination and participation of the designated athlete.

- 2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles currently serving on the committee:

Discretionary Selection Committee:

USA Boccia Board President

USA Boccia Athlete

USA Boccia Board Member

Executive Director USA Boccia and High Performance Manager

USA Boccia Head Coach

*If any of the above slots become vacant the committee will move forward without that position assuming there is 20% athlete representation on the committee.

- 2.3.1. Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the USA BOCCIA has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by the USA BOCCIA may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by the USA BOCCIA:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA BOCCIA Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the USA BOCCIA. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the USA BOCCIA, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.4. Violation of USA Boccia National/Paralympic Team Code of Conduct (Attachment 1).
- 3.1.5. Re-classification of the athlete by the IPC such that the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him/her for the Team.
- 3.1.6. Removal by the IPC of the event in which the athlete qualified for the Team from the program of the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USA Boccia's Bylaws and the USOPC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once athlete entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USA BOCCIA Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<http://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents>

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, Panam Sports, IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

- 4.1.1. prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

If an individual from a Team/Pair needs to be replaced, See Section 2.

If it's an individual slot earned through the BISFed Rankings, BISFed will reallocate to the next highest ranked individual.

- 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

Replacement after July 15, 2020 (final entry by name due to Local Organizing Committee) requires approval of IPC.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA BOCCIA will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American or Parapan American Games and are included as attachments:

USA Boccia National/Paralympic Team Code of Conduct (Attachment 1)

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USA BOCCIA in the following locations:

7.1. USA BOCCIA Web site: <https://usaboccia.org/>

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

7.2. Other:

USA Boccia e-newsletter

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before:

July 10, 2020

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

After nomination to the Team, athletes may be required to attend a separate training session prior to departure for Tokyo 2020 that will be designated by the Head Coach. The dates and locations of these training sessions will be confirmed no later than 30 days prior to the start of training. Dates and locations will be posted on www.usaboccia.org website. While waivers for this mandatory training will not be unreasonably withheld, waivers will primarily be granted only for illness, injury or other incapacity, or for personal/family emergency. All candidates for the Team should arrange for appropriate time off from school, work or other obligations well in advance of Team activities. Requests for a waiver may be

submitted in writing to the Head Coach and USA Boccia for review. A response to all requests will be issued to the athlete within 72 hours of the request.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC Rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Becky Prince – USA Boccia Executive Director
James Thompson – USA Boccia Board President
Patrick Parkes – USA Boccia Athlete
Bruce Ashby – USA Boccia Head Coach

12. USA BOCCIA BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USA BOCCIA Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at: Attachment 2

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, as applicable, and/or BISFed rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, as applicable, and/or BISFed rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA BOCCIA. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.



14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USA BOCCIA may contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman, Kacie Wallace, by:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Email at Kacie.wallace@usoc.org
- <http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman>

15. USA BOCCIA SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and/or CF (PAG/PPAG only) and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA BOCCIA.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA BOCCIA President or CEO/Executive Director	Rebecca Prince		11/21/19
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	James Thompson		11/21/2019
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Marck Harrison	marck harrison	Signed On: 12/11/2019

* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the USA BOCCIA, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, the USA BOCCIA must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

ATTACHMENT 1

USA Boccia - NATIONAL/PARALYMPIC TEAM CODE OF CONDUCT

I pledge to uphold the spirit of this Code of Conduct (the “Code”), which offers a guide to my conduct as a member of a USA Boccia National Team or a U.S. Paralympics Team to international competition (the “Team”).

This Code applies to those Paralympic sports in which the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) has recognized a National Governing Body or a Paralympic Sport Organization to govern the sport. I acknowledge that I have a right to a hearing if my opportunity to compete is denied or if I am charged with a violation of this Code. I have familiarized myself with the Code and understand that acceptance of its provisions is a condition of my membership on the Team.

As a Member of the Team, I hereby promise and agree that I:

- will abide by all rules related to the Team selection procedures as approved by USA Boccia;
- have acted and will act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct;
- will maintain a level of fitness and competitive readiness that will permit my performance to be at the maximum of my abilities;
- will submit to a physical examination approved by USA Boccia medical personnel if my ability to compete is compromised due to physical injury, illness or incapacity and I understand that such physical injury, illness or incapacity may be cause for my not being selected to the Team, being removed from the Team, or not being allowed to participate if I remain on the Team.
- will not commit a doping violation as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) or USA Boccia rules;
- am not currently serving a doping violation and/or do not have a pending or unresolved doping charge;
- will not engage in any conduct that is criminal under any laws applicable to me, including, but not limited to laws governing the possession and use of drugs and alcohol and providing of drugs to any person and of alcohol to minors;
- am eligible to compete under the rules of the IPC and its pertinent committees, and its pertinent member organizations and under the rules of USA Boccia;
- will refrain from conduct detracting from my ability or that of my teammates to attain peak performance;
- will respect the property of others whether personal or public;
- will respect members of my Team, other teams, spectators and officials, and engage in no form of discriminatory behavior nor in any form of verbal, physical or sexual harassment or abuse;
- will follow the Team rules, whether set by Team leadership or adopted by consensus, including by way of example, rules regarding curfew and required attendance at Team meetings;
- agree to wear the uniforms approved by USA Boccia and/or the USOPC at official activities sponsored by USA Boccia or the USOPC, and I agree to compete in the USA Boccia and/or the USOPC approved Team uniform, where such a uniform is provided, in competitions at which I am supported by the USOPC;
- agree to wear the names and logos of USA Boccia and/or the USOPC sponsors, suppliers and licensees on Team competition wear, other uniforms and casual wear as provided by USA Boccia and/or the USOPC, I agree to not alter any Team uniform, either by removing or obstructing the names or logos of USA Boccia and/or the USOPC sponsors, suppliers and licensees or by adding patches, stickers, or other means of displaying unauthorized names, logos or messages;

- agree to not demean or defame USA Boccia and/or the USOPC or its sponsors, their names, logos, marks, products or services. I acknowledge that endorsing and supporting USA Boccia and/or the USOPC sponsors through my actions and words reflects well on the team and on those supporting the team.
- agree to be filmed, videotaped and photographed, and to have my image and voice otherwise recorded, in any media, during any event I am attending under the auspices of USA Boccia and/or the USOPC, by USA Boccia's and/or the USOPC official photographer(s), film crew(s) and video crew(s), and by any other entity authorized by USA Boccia and/or the USOPC, under the conditions specified by USA Boccia and/or the USOPC. I hereby grant USA Boccia and/or the USOPC the irrevocable, perpetual, fully paid-up, worldwide right and license to use, and to authorize third parties to use, in all media, my name, picture, likeness, voice and biographical information for:
 - o (1) news and information purposes,
 - o (2) promotion of the Paralympic movement and the specific competition(s) in which I compete,
 - o (3) promotion of the Team, and
 - o (4) promotion of USA Boccia and/or the USOPC; in no event may USA Boccia and/or the USOPC use or authorize the use of my name, picture, likeness, voice and biographical information for the purpose of trade, including any use in a manner that would imply an endorsement of any company, product, or service, without my written permission;
- will not use or authorize the use of photographs, films or videos of myself in USA Boccia and/or the USOPC apparel or equipment or the use of USA Boccia logo (including, without limitation, any Paralympic logo) for the purpose of trade, promotion, fund raising or on merchandise, without the prior written consent of USA Boccia and/or the USOPC;
- will act in a way that will bring respect and honor to myself, my teammates, the Team, USA Boccia and/or the USOPC, and the United States;
- and will remember that at all times I am an ambassador for my sport, my country and USA Boccia and/or the USOPC.

ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

I may contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman at Kacie.Wallace@usoc.org or 719.866.2299 for further information regarding my rights under this Code that are not answered by USA Boccia or USOPC.

PARTICIANTS' AFFIRMATION

I have read and accept this Code of Conduct. I agree to the rules, guidelines, jurisdiction and procedures stated in these documents as a condition of being a member of the Team.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
marck harrison	12/11/19
<u>Print Name</u>	

USA Boccia Sport

PARENT/GUARDIAN CERTIFICATION

(For Participants Under the Age of 18 as of Date of Signature)

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
marck harrison	12/11/19
<u>Print Name</u>	
<u>Relationship (Parent of Guardian):</u>	

ATTACHMENT 2

USA Boccia ByLaws' Excerpt: full copy of bylaws at www.usaboccia.org

ARTICLE TWELVE: Grievance Procedures

Section 12.1: Designation of Complaints.

The following kinds of complaints may be filed with USA BOCCIA:

Administrative Grievance

Any member of USA BOCCIA may file a complaint pertaining to any matter within the cognizance of USA BOCCIA, including but not limited to any alleged violation of or grievance concerning:

- i. any USA BOCCIA rule or regulation,
- ii. any provision of USA BOCCIA Bylaws, or
- iii. any provision of the Ted Stevens Paralympic and Amateur Sports Act relating to USA BOCCIA's recognition as a National Governing Body/High Performance Management Organization.

Right to Compete

Any athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official may file a complaint pertaining to any alleged denial, or alleged threat to deny, of that individual's opportunity to compete in a USA BOCCIA or BISFed sanctioned competition.

Section 12.2: Manner of Filing.

The complainant shall file the complaint with the Judicial Committee.

The complaint shall set forth in clear and concise language, preferably in numbered paragraphs:

- i. the alleged violation, grievance, denial or threat to deny, and
- ii. the remedy requested.

Section 12.3: Filing Fee.

A complaint filed by an individual shall be accompanied with a filing fee established by USA BOCCIA Board of Directors in the Policies and Procedures of the organization. The fee shall be reasonable and consistent with principles of fairness and equity, and not prohibitive. Successful grievances shall have the entire filing fee returned. The complainant may request that the filing fee be reduced or waived for reasons of significant financial hardship. If such request is made, the Judicial Committee shall determine whether or not to reduce or waive the filing fee.

Section 12.4: Statute of Limitations.

A complaint filed under these Bylaws shall be filed within ninety (90) days of the occurrence of the alleged violation, grievance, denial or threat to deny.

Section 12.5: Administration.

The Judicial Committee shall generally administer and oversee all administrative grievances and right to compete matters filed with USA BOCCIA. The Judicial Committee shall be responsible to ensure that all complaints are heard in a timely, fair and impartial manner. The Judicial Committee may promulgate procedures in addition to those set forth in these Bylaws for the effective administration of complaints filed with USA BOCCIA.

Section 12.6: Hearing Panel.

Upon the filing of a complaint, the President of the Judicial Committee, after consultation with the other Committee members, shall appoint a hearing panel consisting of three (3) individuals to hear the complaint. The Judicial Committee shall also appoint a chair of the hearing panel. Judicial Committee members may also be appointed to and serve on the hearing panel. Other disinterested individuals identified by the Judicial Committee may also be appointed to and serve on the hearing panel. At least one (1) member of the hearing panel shall be an athlete. Members of the panel need not be members of USA BOCCIA or involved in the sport of Boccia.

Section 12.7: Conduct of the Proceeding.

The Hearing Panel shall rule on all motions and other matters pertinent to the proceeding. If the complaint is not dismissed, the panel shall hold a hearing on the complaint. The hearing panel shall set such timelines and other rules regarding the proceeding and the conduct of the hearing as it deems necessary. The hearing shall be informal, except that testimony shall be taken under oath.

The hearing may be conducted by teleconference, if necessary or convenient to the parties. Each party shall have the right to appear personally or through a legal representative. All parties shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present and examine evidence, cross-examine witnesses and to present argument. Members of the hearing panel shall have the right to question witnesses or the parties to the proceeding at any time.

Any party may have a record made of the hearing. A court reporter may be present at the hearing at the request of a party. The court reporter shall be paid for by the party requesting the court reporter, or if mutually agreed, the cost may be equally divided. Any transcript shall be paid for by the party requesting the transcript.

Section 12.8: Expedited Procedures.

Upon the request of a party, and provided that it is necessary to expedite the proceeding in order to resolve a matter relating to a competition that is so scheduled that compliance with regular procedures would not be likely to produce a sufficiently early decision to do justice to the affected parties, the Judicial Committee is authorized to order that the complaint be heard and decided within forty-eight (48) hours of the filing of the complaint. In such a case, the hearing panel is authorized to hear and decide the complaint pursuant to such procedures as are necessary, but fair to the parties involved.

Section 12.9: Complaints Involving Selection to Participate in a Competition.

Where a complaint is filed involving selection of an individual to participate in a competition, the complainant shall include with the complaint a list of all other individuals, together with their contact information, that may be adversely affected by a decision rendered on the complaint.

The hearing panel shall determine which additional individuals must receive notice of the complaint. The complainant shall then be responsible for providing appropriate notice to these individuals. Any individual so

notified then shall have the option to participate in the proceeding as a party. If an individual is notified of the complaint, that individual shall also be bound by the decision of the hearing panel even though the individual chose not to participate as a party.

Section 12.10: Decision.

A decision shall be determined by a majority of the hearing panel. The hearing panel's decision shall be in writing and distributed to the parties.

Section 12.11: Arbitration.

Any party may appeal a decision of the hearing panel to the American Arbitration Association. The arbitrator appointed by the American Arbitration Association shall have the authority to hear the matter anew or if requested by a party to render a decision on a more limited review. Either party may submit the decision of the hearing panel to the arbitrator for the arbitrator's consideration. The arbitrator may give whatever weight or authority to the hearing panel's decision as the arbitrator deems appropriate.